

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for collecting an object material from a solution, which comprises the following steps:

a step of adding a second solvent to a solution composed of an object material to be collected and a first solvent, then mixing therewith to form an emulsion containing the object material in the second solvent, in a state of not uniformly dissolved in the second solvent; and

a step of separating thus obtained emulsion from the solution,

wherein the object material has at least two parts having different lyophilic properties individually.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first solvent is an organic solvent and the second solvent is water.

3. (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the object material is an organic hydroperoxide.

4. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion is formed using ultrasonic or mechanical agitation.

5. (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprises a step of collecting the object material from the emulsion obtained in the separating step after the separating step.

6. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of collecting the object material from the emulsion comprises centrifugal separation.

7. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of collecting the object material from the emulsion comprises extracting the object material from the emulsion using an extractant.

8. (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the extractant is a one having a boiling point lower than that of any of the object material and the second solvent.

9. (original): The method according to claim 8, further comprises a step of separating the object material by subjecting an extracted mixture obtained by extracting the object material from the emulsion using an extractant to distillation.

10. (original): The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the collecting method is at least a part of an concentration step in a process for producing propylene oxide comprising an oxidation step of obtaining an organic hydroperoxide by oxidation of an organic compound, a concentration step of concentrating the organic hydroperoxide and an epoxidation step of obtaining propylene oxide by reacting the organic hydroperoxide with propylene.

11. (original): A process for producing propylene oxide, which comprises an oxidation step of obtaining an organic hydroperoxide by oxidation of an organic compound, a concentration step of concentrating the organic hydroperoxide and an epoxidation step of obtaining propylene oxide by reacting the organic hydroperoxide with propylene, wherein at least a part of the concentration step is any one of claims 1 to 8.